Alleged harassment by ATCs

1414. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National carriers, private domestic airlines and a few foreign airlines have lodged strong complaints alleging harassment by Air Traffic Controllers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Airlines Operator's Committee, Bombay and Trivandrum, (representative of international airlines), Air India, Emirates and Cathay Pacific, domestic airlines including Indian Airlines, Alliance Air, Sahara Airlines and Jet Airways had complained about disruptions and delay in flights because of "Go Slow" by Air Traffic Controllers.

(c) A contingency plan was prepared by the Airports Authority of India to deal with the situation. A notification under ESMA (Essential Services Maintenence Act) has been issued by the National Capital Territory of Delhi on 16-02-1999 declaring air traffic services as essential services. A notification has also been issued for conferring on certain Central Government officers the power of arrest, investigation and prosecution under the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation Act. Air Traffic Controllers Guild has given an assurance to Delhi High Court on 19-02-1999 and 26-02-1999 that there shall be no disruption of flight schedules. AAI has also taken strict disciplinary action by dismissing six delinquent air traffic controllers. At present, flights are operating normally.

Affect of dislocation of flights on foreign tourist traffic

1415. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign tourist traffic is affected by dislocation in air service due to fog;

(b) if so, what measures are being contemplated to ensure that it is not repeated; and

(c) to what extent the domestic sector is affected?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Considering the unprecedented fog conditions in Delhi and other cities of Northern Region it has been decided to instal CAT III Instrument Landing System at the main runway of Delhi Airport and CAT II ILS at Lucknow, Jammu and Amritsar airports.

(c) The total number of Indian Airlines flights cancelled/delayed during the period December, 1998 and January, 1999 due to fog is as under:—

Cancellations:— December, 1998—167
January, 1999—78

Delays:— December, 1998—363
January, 1999—374

Information on delays/cancellation of private airlines is not readily available.

Corporatisation of Shamshabad Airport

1416. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has demanded corporatisation of the proposed International Airport at Shamshabad; and

if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) There is a proposal under consideration to develop a new international airport near Hyderabad and which would be a corporate entity.

Transfer policy of officers in AAI

1417. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the norms fixed in regard to transfer of officials of Airports Authority of India, New Delhi particularly in communication wing;

(b) the number of officials working on the same stations from 5-10 and 15-20 years station-wise;

(c) the number of officials transferred within a short period station-wise and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to adopt a comprehensive policy in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) There is a comprehensive transfer policy which applies to all categories of staff in Airports Authority of India. This policy stipulate that except in cases of transfers to tenure stations the officers and staff shall not normally be transferred from one station to another station in the region before he/she completes a minimum period of three years at that station and from one region to another region before he/she completes five years in that region. However Group 'D' staff may not be normally transferred except on reduction of establishment/administrative reasons. Request for transfer when made shall be subject to the availability of vacancies and the merit of the case.

(b) The number of officials in communication wing working at the same station between 5 to 10 years and 15 to 20 years station-wise is given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(c) No official has been transferred within a short period.

(d) The comprehensive transfer policy for Airport Authority employees already exists.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of officers in communication wing working at the same station for 05-10, and 15—20 years as on 28/2/99

	Station	Continuous stay for years	
		5-10	15-20
1.	Agra	1	—
2.	Ahmedabad	9	—
3.	Amritsar	—	—
4.	Aurangabad	1	—
5.	Bangalore	10	—
6.	Belgaum	1	—
7.	Bhopal	2	—
8.	Bhubaneshwar	4	—
9.	Bhuj	1	—
10.	Bombay	37	3
11.	Calcutta	49	—
12.	Calicut	7	—
13.	Cate	8	—
14.	Coimbatore	1	—
15.	Dehradun	1	—
16.	Delhi	112	6
17.	Farukhabad	1	—
18.	Goa	1	—
19.	Guwahati	1	—
20.	Hyderabad	12	—
21.	Jabalpur	1	—
22.	Jaipur	9	—
23.	Jammu	3	—
24.	Jamshedpur	1	—
25.	Jodhpur	2	—
26.	Kanpur	1	—
27.	Khajuraho	1	—
28.	Lucknow	12	—
29.	Madras	27	3